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12 October 1955

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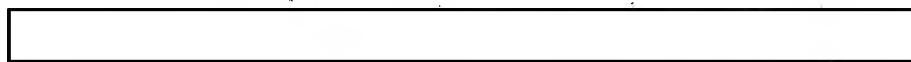
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State Dept. review completed

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4. SOUTH KOREAN ARMY CHIEF CRITICAL OF COUNTRY'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

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[redacted] South Korean army chief of staff Chong Il-kwon told Under Secretary Hoover during a briefing on 7 October that the South Korean military establishment pledges its co-operation and complete loyalty to the United States. Chong later told an American embassy official that his remarks were intended to convey a sincere pledge of the army's loyalty "in contrast to the attitude of the politicians which was damaging South Korean-US relations."

In earlier talks between President Rhee and Hoover, the president did not raise any substantive issues. Shortly thereafter, however, inflammatory articles directed against the United States appeared in Rhee's own newspaper.

Comment

Chong, who asserts that 14 of the 20 division commanders are his followers, has expressed his determination on several occasions to block any irrational military action by Rhee.

Chong's attempt to develop status as the United States' most reliable supporter in South Korea reflects his growing political ambition and his determination to develop powerful American support for his future moves. Chong's term as chief of staff expires in February 1956, and he may wish to assure himself of American backing for another term in what he considers the country's key position.

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**5. JAPANESE EXPORT CREDITS TO BURMA MAY OBLIGE
NEED FOR US AID**

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[REDACTED] The Japanese embassy in Rangoon has indicated that negotiations for a short-term Japanese loan to Burma, in the form of export credits amounting to approximately \$12,000,000, are about to be concluded. The American embassy comments that this loan, together with the recent Indian agreement to provide credits amounting to \$40,000,000, slightly exceeds the immediate foreign exchange requirements of the Burmese government. Rangoon may, therefore, for political reasons terminate negotiations for American assistance.

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